

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the client to display the stored advertisement for a period corresponding to a period during which said second computer readable program code means is to be activated.

45. The computer program product according to claim 43, further comprising:
seventh computer readable program code means for causing a client to store the advertisement; and

eight computer readable program code means for displaying the stored advertisement for a period since a communication path is established on the internet until the image starts to be down-loaded.

46. The computer program product according to claim 43, further comprising:
ninth computer readable program code means for causing a client to store the advertisement; and

tenth computer readable program code means for displaying the stored advertisement after a communication path on the internet is disconnected.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-50 are pending in the application. Claims 1-50 have been rejected.
Claims 1, 4, 7, 12-16, 19, 22, 27-31 and 42-46 are herein amended.

Independent claims 1 and 13 are apparatus and system claims, respectively, that are herein amended to recite “an advertisement that is different from an image picked up by a connected camera” instead of “information which is independent of the image outputted by said first output device.” Independent claims 28 and 43 are method and computer program product claims, respectively, which have been amended to include a corresponding recitations. Claims 1,

13, 28 and 43 are also herein amended to recite “such that the advertisement is inserted into the image output from the first output device.” Claims 4, 7, 12, 14-16, 19, 22, 27, 29-31, 42 and 44-46 are herein amended to recite “advertisement” instead of “information.” Support for these amendments is found in the specification, *e.g.*, at p. 4, line 23 to p. 5, line 17 and in Fig. 4. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,166,729 (“Acosta”). Applicants submit that these rejections are rendered moot by the claim amendments made herein.

By the amendments made herein to independent claim 1, this claim now reflects an embodiment of Applicants’ invention in which a second output device “outputs an advertisement that is different from an image picked up by a connected camera” and that advertisement “is inserted into the image output from the first output device.”

In contrast, the COVMS 16 in Acosta merely controls switching between images sensed by cameras 12 which are wirelessly connected to the system (column 7, lines 43-51, column 8, lines –15). However, Acosta neither discloses nor suggests the insertion of an advertisement into an image output from a first output device.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the second output/down-loading device and the switch controller in claims 1 and 13 of the claimed invention which realize switching between an image and an advertisement that is different from an image picked-up by a connected camera are not anticipated by Acosta. For this same reason, Applicants believe that neither claims 28 nor 43 are anticipated by Acosta.

Having distinguished the independent claims over the cited prior art, Applicants decline to herein address the rejections of the dependent claims, but reserve the right to do so in the future, should this become necessary.

CONCLUSION

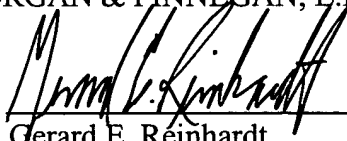
For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable examination on the merits. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

No extension of time is believed necessary to render this amendment timely filed. However, should such an extension of time become necessary, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner for such extension. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4480.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

By: 
Gerard E. Reinhardt

Dated: October 16, 2002

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154-0053
(212) 758-4800 Telephone
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile

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APPENDIX:
AMENDMENTS SHOWING INTERLINEATIONS AND DELETIONS

In the Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) An image down-loading apparatus capable of down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, comprising:

a switch [for switching] adapted to switch between a first output device which outputs an image and a second output device which outputs [information which is independent of the image outputted by said first output device] an advertisement that is different from an image picked up by a connected camera; and

a switch controller [for controlling] adapted to control said switch,

wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to select said second output device for a first predetermined period after said first output device is selected for a second predetermined period, such that the advertisement is inserted into the image output from the first output device.
4. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising memory for storing [information] advertisement on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the [information] advertisement on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to the second group when the [information] advertisement on the client is not stored in said memory.
7. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising memory for storing [information] advertisement on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the [information] advertisement on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to a second group when the [information] advertisement on the client is not stored in said memory.

12. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising memory for storing [information] advertisement,

wherein the [information] advertisement to be outputted by said second output device is the [information] advertisement stored in said memory.

13. (Twice Amended) An image down-loading system capable of down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, comprising:

a first down-loading device which down-loads an image;

a second down-loading device which down-loads [information which is independent of the image down-loaded by said first down-loading device] an advertisement that is different from an image picked up by a connected camera;

a switch [for switching] adapted to switch between said first down-loading device and said second down-loading device; and

a switch controller [for controlling] adapted to control said switch,

wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to select said second down-loading device for a first predetermined period after said first down-loading device is selected for a second predetermined period, such that the advertisement is inserted into the image down-loaded from said first down-loading device.

14. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients have memory for storing the [information] advertisement down-loaded by

said second down-loading device, and while said switch selects said second down-loading device, the clients display the [information] advertisement stored in said memory.

15. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients have memory for storing the [information] advertisement down-loaded by said second down-loading device, and since a communication path is established on the internet until the image to be down-loaded by said first down-loading device starts to be down-loaded, the clients display the [information] advertisement stored in said memory.

16. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients have memory for storing the [information] advertisement down-loaded by said second down-loading device, and after a communication path on the internet is disconnected, the clients display the [information] advertisement stored in said memory.

19. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading system according to claim 18, further comprising memory for storing [information] advertisement on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the [information] advertisement on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to the second group when the [information] advertisement on the client is not stored in said memory.

22. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading system according to claim 21, further comprising memory for storing [information] advertisement on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the [information] advertisement on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to a second group when the [information] advertisement on the client is not stored in said memory.

27. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading system according to claim 13, further comprising memory for storing [information] advertisement,
wherein the [information] advertisement to be down-loaded by said second down-loading device is the [information] advertisement stored in said memory.

28. (Twice Amended) An image down-loading method capable of down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, comprising:
a first down-loading step of down-loading an image;
a second down-loading step of down-loading [information which is independent of the image down-loaded in said first down-loading step] an advertisement that is different from an image picked up by a connected camera;

a first switching step of switching from said first down-loading step to said second down-loading step after a first predetermined period has elapsed, such that the advertisement is inserted into the image down-loaded in said first down-loading step; and

a second switching step of switching from said second down-loading step to said first down-loading step after a second predetermined period has elapsed.

29. (Amended) The image down-loading method according to claim 28, further comprising:

a step of causing a client to store said [information] advertisement down-loaded in said second down-loading step; and

a step of causing the client to display the stored [information] advertisement for a period corresponding to said second down-loading step.

30. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading method according to claim 28, further comprising:

a step of causing a client to store the [information] advertisement down-loaded in said second downloading step; and

a step of displaying the stored [information] advertisement for a period since a communication path is established on the internet until the image to be down-loaded in said first down-loading step starts to be down-loaded.

31. (Twice Amended) The image down-loading method according to claim 28, further comprising:

a step of causing a client to store the [information] advertisement down-loaded in said second down-loading step; and

a step of displaying the stored [information] advertisement after communication path on the internet is disconnected.

42. (Amended) The image down-loading method according to claim 28, wherein, in said second downloading step, [information] advertisement stored in memory in advance is down-loaded.

43. (Twice Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, said product including:

first computer readable program code means for down-loading an image;

second computer readable program code means for down-loading [information which is independent of the image] an advertisement that is different from an image picked up by a connected camera;

third computer readable program code means for switching from said first computer readable program code means to said second computer readable program code means

after a first predetermined period has elapsed, such that the advertisement is inserted into the image down-loaded by said first computer readable program code means; and

fourth computer readable program code means for switching from said second computer readable program code means to said first computer readable program code means after a second predetermined period has elapsed.

44. (Twice Amended) The computer program product according to claim 43, further comprising:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing a client to store the [information] advertisement; and

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the client to display the stored [information] advertisement for a period corresponding to a period during which said second computer readable program code means is to be activated.

45. (Twice Amended) The computer program product according to claim 43, further comprising:

seventh computer readable program code means for causing a client to store the [information] advertisement; and

eighth computer readable program code means for displaying the stored [information] advertisement for a period since a communication path is established on the internet until the image starts to be down-loaded.

46. (Twice Amended) The computer program product according to claim 43, further comprising:

ninth computer readable program code means for causing a client to store the [information] advertisement; and

tenth computer readable program code means for displaying the stored
[information] advertisement after a communication path on the internet is disconnected.